

STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No.228

30p

The cover features a dynamic illustration. On the right, a close-up of a man's face (Carter) with a determined expression, wearing a gold headband and a red shirt. In the background, a large, jagged ice mountain rises against a dark blue sky with a full moon and several smaller celestial bodies. At the base of the mountain, a complex of futuristic, golden-yellow structures is built into the ice, including a large dome and various mechanical components.

THE SECRET OF ICE MOUNTAIN

... A CARTER STORY ...

We at "Starblazer" want to bring you the very best in Fantasy Fiction. To do that we need your help.

So that we can produce the kind of stories you want to read, please fill in the questionnaire on this page and send it to "Starblazer", D. C. Thomson & Co. Ltd., 185 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HS.

If you don't want to cut your issue of "Starblazer", you can copy the questionnaire onto a sheet of paper.

And there's a chance to win a full-colour print of one of our new-style wraparound covers!

The senders of the ten letters which we judge to be the most informative will each receive one of the prints. We want to hear from you NOW!

Name **Age**

Address

What kind of science fiction do you most enjoy?
Please tick appropriate boxes.
If you dislike any type of story, place a cross in the box.

SUPERHEROES	<input type="checkbox"/>	FANTASY
DUNGEONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	SWORD AND
AND DRAGONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	SORCERY
POST	<input type="checkbox"/>	HORROR
HOLOCAUST	<input type="checkbox"/>	STAR WARS
ADVENTURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	DR. WHO
HUMOUR	<input type="checkbox"/>	MYSTERY

Where do you normally buy your STARBLAZER? _____

Which is your favourite STARBLAZER story? _____

Which is your favourite character? _____

Which is your favourite science fiction movie? _____

Have you any comments to make about STARBLAZER... good or bad? _____

THE SECRET OF ICE MOUNTAIN

ALL THE WORLDS IN THE FEDERATION HAD ENOUGH NUCLEAR DEVICES TO WIPE ALL THE OTHERS OUT MANY TIMES OVER. FINALLY THE UNITED PLANETS ORGANISATION PASSED A RESOLUTION BANNING THE MANUFACTURE OF THESE WEAPONS OF MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION — THE M.A.D. CLAUSE.

THIS, HOWEVER, MADE NO DIFFERENCE TO THE WORK OF THE ORDINARY POLICEMAN. AS ONE CHECKING THE HOLD OF AN INTER-PLANETARY CRAFT ON SPACEPORT BINGHAM, DISCOVERED.



A STOWAWAY CAUSED CONFUSION BY SWITCHING ON THE FIRE-FIGHTING SYSTEM.



IN THE PORT COMMAND CENTRE —

STOWAWAYS ON A MINERAL SHIP. THEY'VE GRABBED TWO COPS AND ARE THREATENING TO KILL THEM UNLESS THEY GET FREE PASSAGE.

A T U



THIS IS A JOB FOR THE LEOS.*

* SLANG FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

CARTER WAS BEAMED IN. CARTER WAS NO ORDINARY LEO — HE WAS PART MAN, PART MACHINE AND COMPLETELY RUTHLESS.

WE WANT POLITICAL ASYLUM AND FREE PASSAGE.

THAT'S THE MID-SECTION ENERGY CORE. THEY SAY THEY'LL ICE THE COPS, THEN HIT THE CORE — HALF THIS PORT AREA WILL GO UP WITH THE SHIP.

NOTHING'S GOING TO GO UP ...

CARTER WASN'T ONE FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS. HE HEADED FOR THE ENERGY CORE —

DROP THOSE WEAPONS AND RELEASE THOSE MEN. NOW!

FIRST WE WANT GUARANTEES OF POLITICAL ASYLUM, FREE PASSAGE AND IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION.

POWER



**CARTER PRODUCED A LEO
ISSUE LASER BLASTER
FROM BEHIND HIS BACK.**



DON'T SHOOT — I HAVE
INFORMATION. WE — WE
CAN DO A DEAL!

NO DEALS, BUT
BEGIN TALKING!

LATER —

... THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING THAT
CONTRAvenes M.A.D. AGREEMENT.
GIVE ME ASYLUM AND I'LL TELL YOU
WHERE.

HE WANTS ASYLUM BADLY
ENOUGH TO LIE THROUGH HIS
BACK TEETH!

I KNOW! BUT WHAT IF HE'S NOT
LYING? THIS MUST GO
STRAIGHT UP TO GOVERNMENT
LEVEL.

GOOD! THAT LETS ME OUT. I'M A
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
— NOT A POLITICIAN.

AT AN EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING LATER THAT DAY —



A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO SELECT THE TEAM...

THIS IS PER TORSSEN, TOP PHYSICS GRADUATE FROM KIRKTON UNIVERSITY, SPECIALISES IN SCIENTIFIC WARFARE RESEARCH... AND HAS SOLD CLASSIFIED MATERIAL FOR HIS OWN GAIN... SECURITY RISK!



THIS IS KORV ELGEX, MOTHER WAS FROM SARTOG, THE PLANET IN QUESTION. HE WAS BORN THERE, SPEAKS THE TONGUE LIKE A NATIVE. KNOWS THE AREA IN QUESTION VERY WELL. PERFECT GUIDE FOR THE EXPEDITION. HE IS AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT.



CHANCE VARLEY. LONG CRIMO RECORD. OUT ON PROBATION. EXPERT ON ELECTRONIC SECURITY SYSTEMS. COULD BE ESSENTIAL ON SUCH AN UNDERCOVER OPERATION AS THIS.



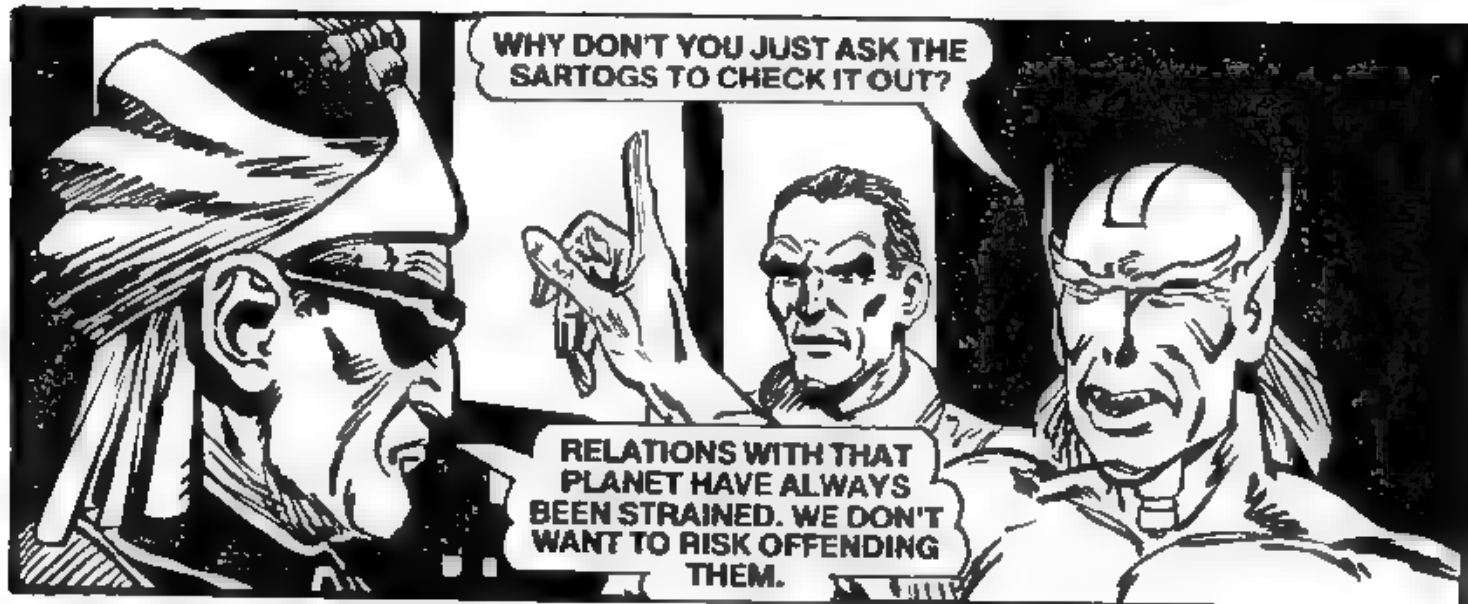
THEN WE NEED A LEO TO ACCOMPANY THEM.

AN EXPENDABLE ONE...
SEND CARTER.





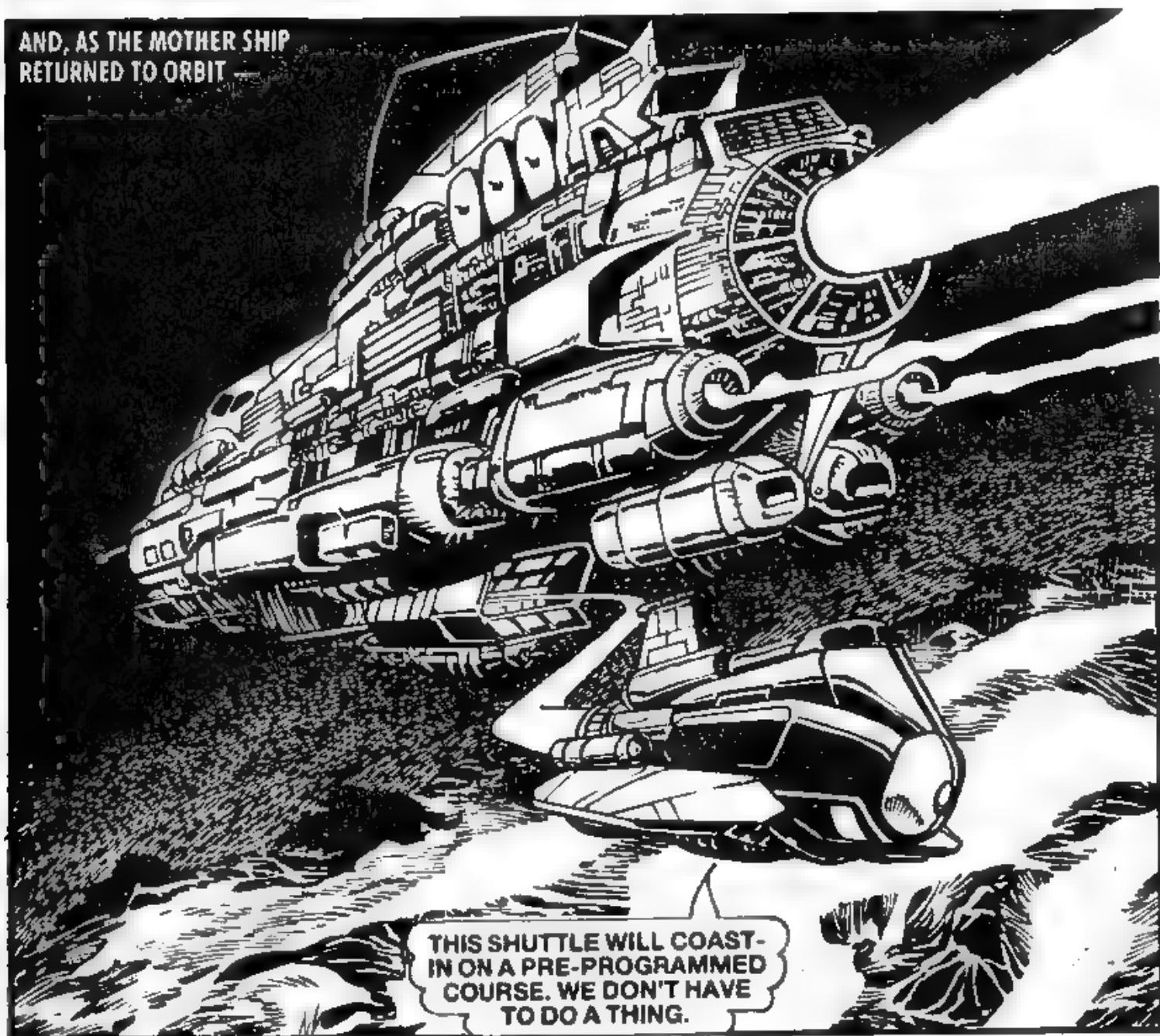





AT THE SARTOG MONITORING STATION —



AND, AS THE MOTHER SHIP
RETURNED TO ORBIT —



AT SARTOG GUARD CONTROL —



SCOUR THE IMMEDIATE AREA. THAT METEORITE SHOWER COULD BE A COVER FOR AN ILLEGAL ENTRY. IT'S OUR JOB TO COVER EVERY POSSIBILITY NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT.



SPOT ON! NICE BIT OF PROGRAMMING ...

OKAY — OUT! WE HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AND NOT A MOMENT MORE. LET'S MOVE.

MARK
XXXII



SO FAR SO GOOD! KNOW WHERE WE ARE, ELGEX?

YES ... AT THE FOOT OF ICE MOUNTAIN.

AS THE TEAM CLIMBED —



BIO-READINGS
IN AREA 4F.

TAKE SOMEONE AND
CHECK IT OUT. BUT BE
CAREFUL — IT COULD
BE ABNORMS!

BELOW —

WAIT! I
MUST REST.



ONLY SCHEDULED STOPS, TORSER,
AND THIS ISN'T ONE OF THEM.

THE PARTY HAD
BEEN SPOTTED —

ALERT!
AREA 4FI

— BUT THE SPOTTERS
HAD BEEN SPOTTED.

IN THE NAME OF —
NOOOO!

ABNORMS!

ABNORMS — REXUS
POLARIS . . . FLESH EATERS.

FORGET THE ZOOLOGY
LESSON — KILL THEM!

THE FOUR OPENED FIRE —





WHATEVER IT IS BETWEEN
YOU TWO — FORGET IT.
WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE
TO WORK TOGETHER ON
THIS TRIP ... BECAUSE I
THINK WE'VE BEEN TOLD
LESS THAN THE TRUTH.



AT THE SARTOG GUARD CONTROL —

THERE HASN'T BEEN A
CHECK FROM THE PATROL
SINCE THE ABNORM
REPORT.



SEND OUT SOME PROBE-SPHERES.
I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL.

AS CARTER'S TEAM MOVED HIGHER —

WHAT'S GOING ON,
CARTER? WHY AREN'T WE
WORKING WITH THE
SARTOG B ON THIS?

DON'T ASK ME ...
I'M JUST OBEYING ORDERS.







ONE OF THEM IS
CHECKING OUT
SOMETHING. THE
OTHER ONE'S MOVING
OFF.

LET'S HOPE THEY
DON'T FIND US. BUT IF
THEY DO ... WE TAKE
THEM OUT!



WE ... WE CAN'T OPEN
FIRE ON THE SARTOGS.
WE'D BE VIOLATING
THE INTER-PLANETARY
PACT.

WE VIOLATED THE PACT
WHEN WE LANDED
HERE. AND THOSE
SARTOGS DON'T LOOK
LIKE THEY'RE OUT FOR
A STROLL.



THE GROUP SPLIT UP...

I DON'T LIKE THIS, TORSEN. WE'VE BEEN CONNED! WE COULD ALL GET KILLED.

WE HAVE NO OPTION — WE'RE ALL CRIMINALS AND THIS IS OUR ONE CHANCE TO WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN.

BUT ELGEX'S COMPLAINING HAD ALREADY DONE DAMAGE —

GETTING A READING QUITE NEAR...

BEEP

A SPEECH PATTERN —
ABNORMS DON'T TALK!







BELOW THEM —

FORCE THEM OUT FROM YOUR
SIDE. I'LL TAKE THEM FROM
HERE ...



WE'VE GOT TO RUN FOR
IT. HE'S TOO CLOSE!

THE OTHER ONE WILL
PICK US OFF, YOU FOOL!



BUT CARTER ARRIVED —





AT THE SARTOG GUARD CONTROL



CARTER'S TEAM WERE HEARING THE COMPLEX ON ICE MOUNTAIN —





THERE, MY FRIENDS,
IS OUR WAY IN ...

WHAT? BUT — IT'S JUST
ANOTHER WATERFALL!

IT'S NOT FROZEN!

EXACTLY, TORSSEN. SO
IT MUST BE HEATED —
PROBABLY BY WASTE FROM
THE COMPLEX.

IT'LL BE GUARDED —
PROBABLY
ELECTRONICALLY!

THAT'S MY DEPARTMENT!
LET ME TAKE A LOOK ...





WELL? HAVE I EARNED MY
KEEP, CARTER? WE'RE ALL
STILL IN ONE PIECE.

NOT BAD FOR STARTERS,
VARLEY. BUT WE'VE A LONG
WAY TO GO YET.



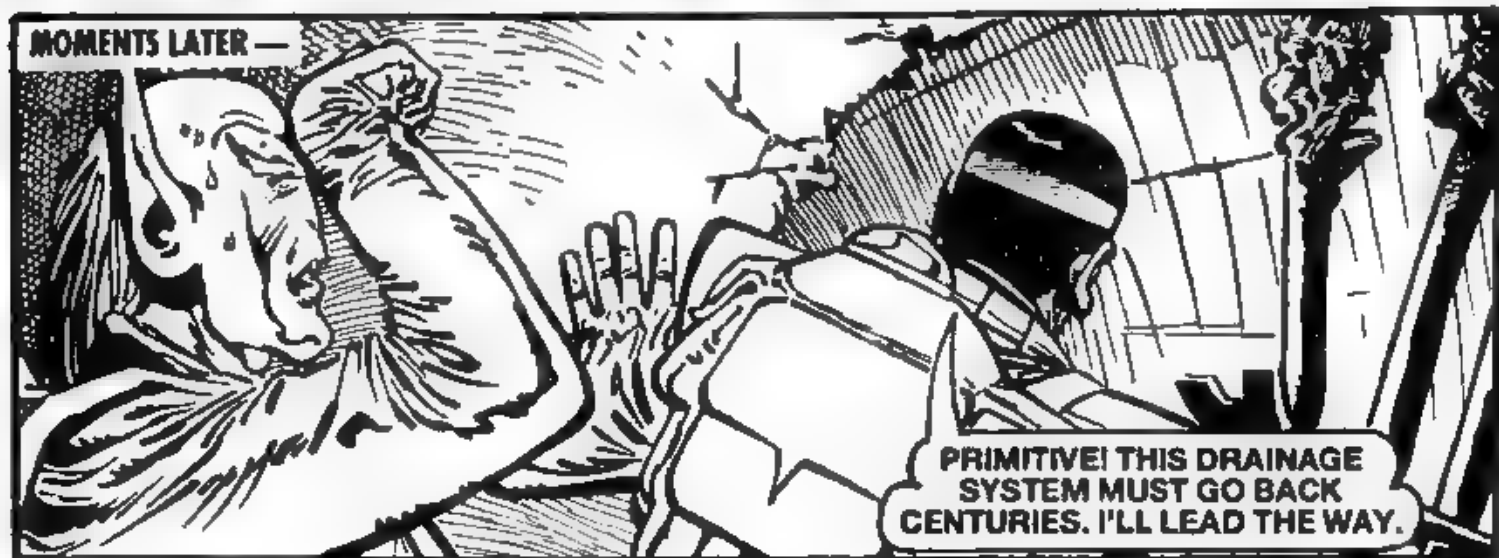
OH, NO! THAT'S ALL WE
NEED. THAT GRILLE COULD
BE ELECTRIFIED!

WITH WATER FLOWING
THROUGH IT? USE YOUR HEAD,
ELGEX. BETWEEN US WE CAN
TEAR OUT THAT GRILLE.



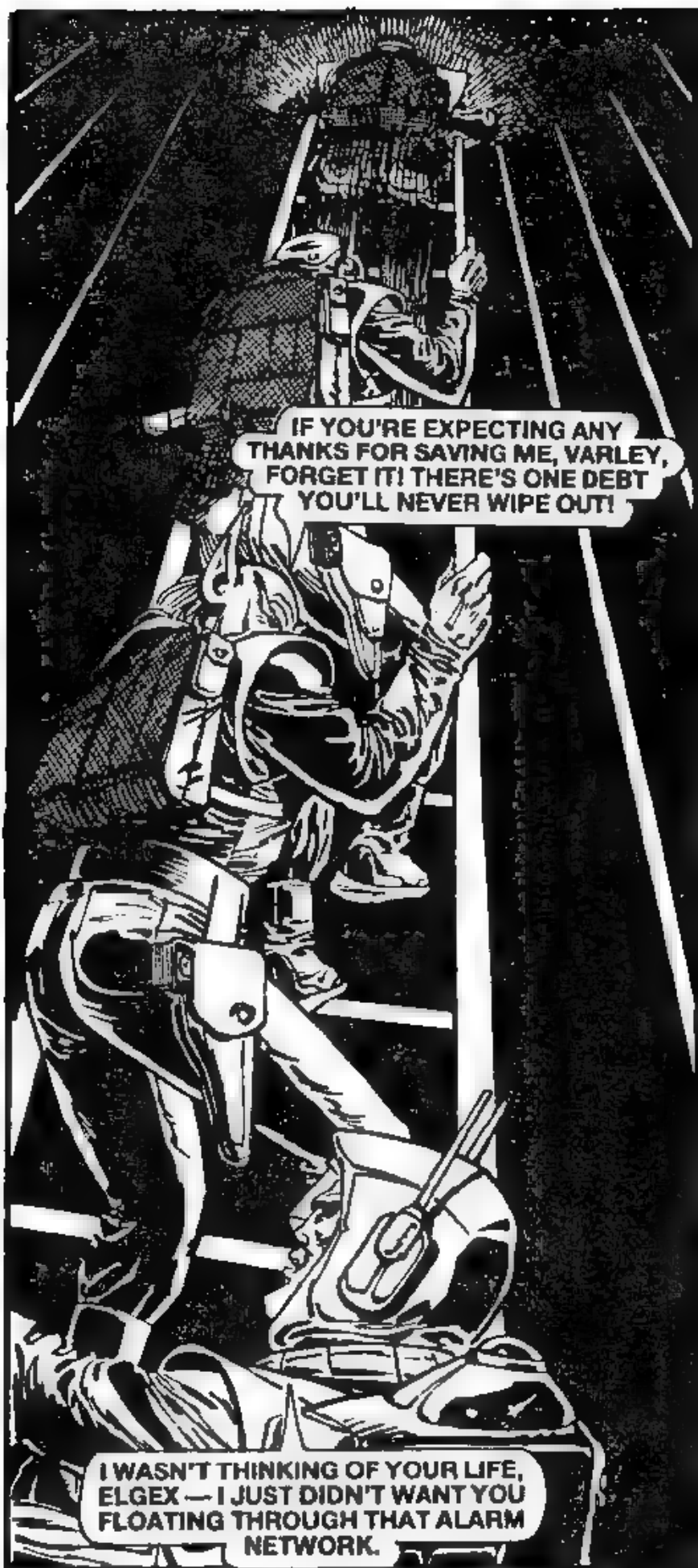
MOMENTS LATER —

PRIMITIVE! THIS DRAINAGE
SYSTEM MUST GO BACK
CENTURIES. I'LL LEAD THE WAY.









THE ANSWER CAME IN A WAY
THEY DIDN'T EXPECT — OR
WANTS

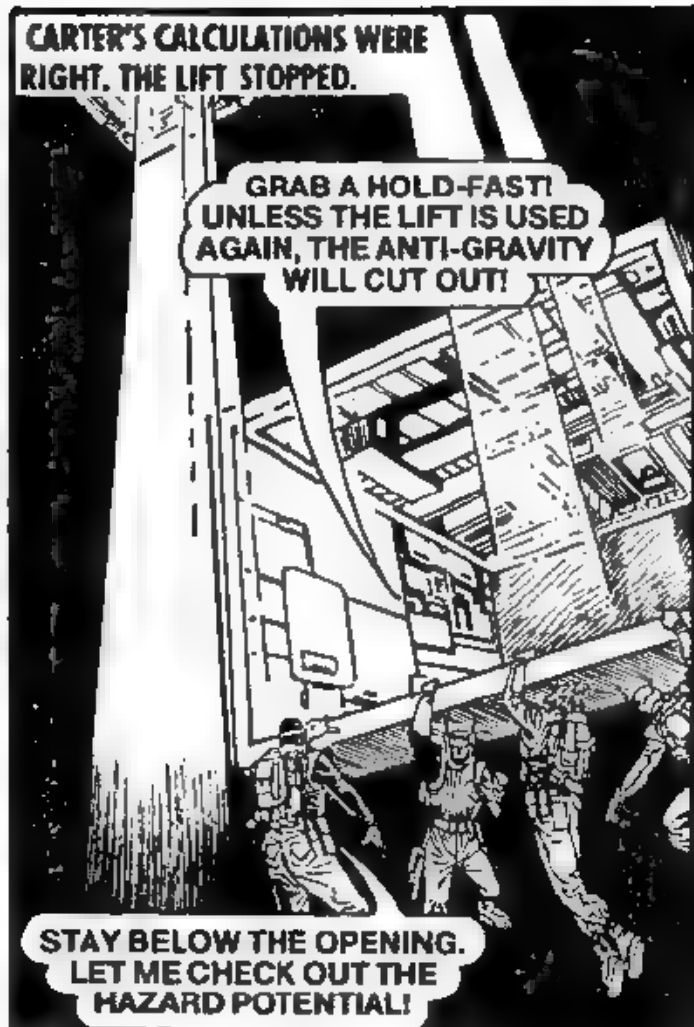
WHA —?

AND IT'S COMING
DOWN — AT SPEED!

OPEN ACCESS SHAFT
ALL THE WAY UP.

BUT HOW DO
WE GET UP?

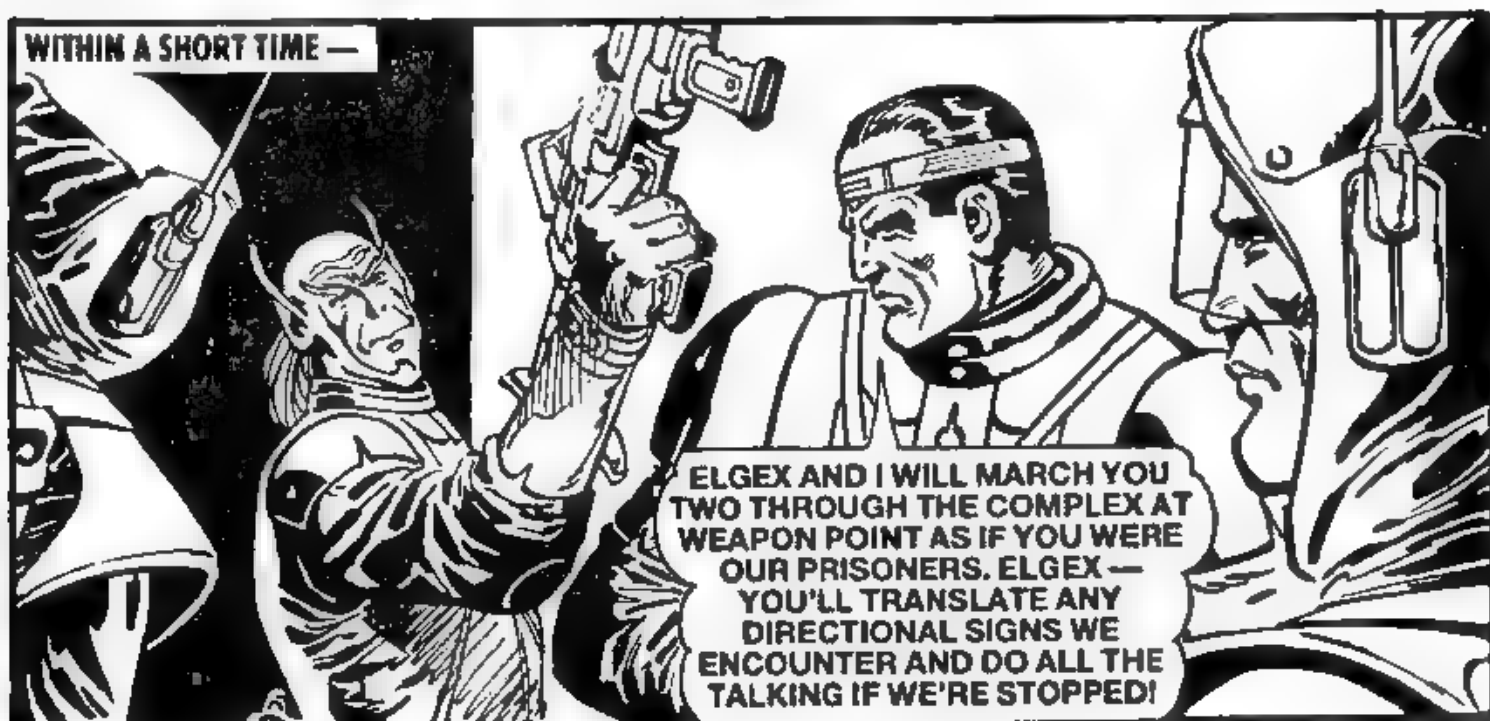
LIGHTS! AND — WE'RE
— WE'RE FLOATING!
SOMEONE'S USING THE
LIFT — IT'S AN ANTI-
GRAV SHAFT!





CARTER WAS OVER THE THRESHOLD
BLASTING BEFORE THE TWO SARTOG
GUARDS COULD REACT.

THOSE ANDROIDS ARE
PROGRAMMED ONLY TO WORK!
ELGEX! YOU AND I WILL USE
THESE GUARD OUTFITS. MOVE!



WITHIN A SHORT TIME —

ELGEX AND I WILL MARCH YOU
TWO THROUGH THE COMPLEX AT
WEAPON POINT AS IF YOU WERE
OUR PRISONERS. ELGEX —
YOU'LL TRANSLATE ANY
DIRECTIONAL SIGNS WE
ENCOUNTER AND DO ALL THE
TALKING IF WE'RE STOPPED!

THE UNIFORMS BELONG TO
REGULAR SARTOG TROOPS.
THIS PLACE MAY BE
SECRET, BUT IT SEEMS TO
ME THE SARTOG
GOVERNMENT IS BEHIND IT.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY
ALL THOSE SARTOG
GUARDS ARE IN THE
VICINITY. BUT WHAT ARE
THEY UP TO HERE?

TRANSLATE, ELGEX. WHERE DO THESE SIGNS POINT TO?

BOTTOM RIGHT COULD BE OF USE. IT INDICATES THE PROBE-SPHERE BAY. TOP LEFT INDICATES WHAT THEY CALL THE EXPERIMENTAL CHAMBER.

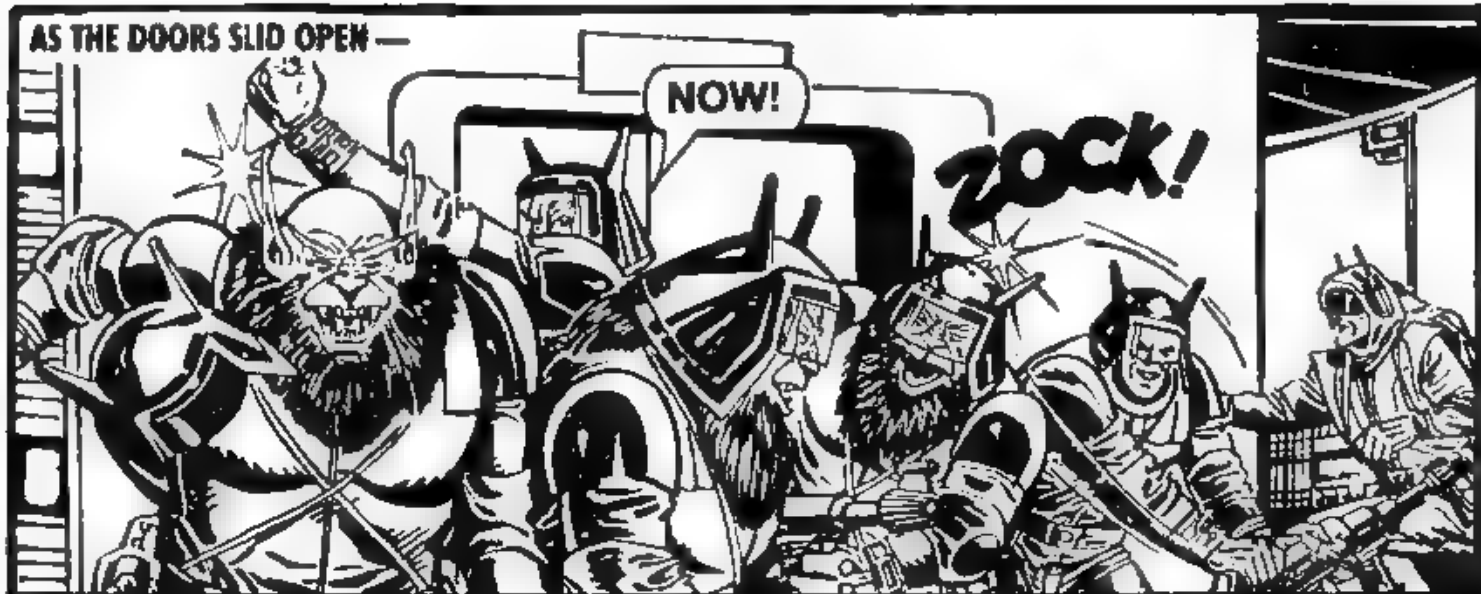
THAT'LL BE WHAT WE WANT. FOLLOW THAT!



AS THE DOORS SLID OPEN —

NOW!

rock!



VARLEY! TORSSEN! GRAB TWO OF THE OUTFITS. SHOVE THE BODIES INTO THE VEHICLE. WE'LL REPEAT THE DOOR-OPENING PROCEDURE WITH THE DISC — LOOKS LIKE A SIMPLE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM.

ONCE VARLEY AND TORSSEN HAD MADE THEIR QUICK CHANGE —



NOT WORKING! WHY NOT? IT WORKED FOR THE OTHER GUARD. HE SALUTED AND SLAPPED THE DISC AGAINST THAT PANEL.

MAYBE IT WASN'T A SALUTE. HAUL OUT ONE OF THOSE BODIES!





WHAT'S HAPPENING, TORSEN?

I — I'M NOT SURE. WHATEVER THEY'RE AIMING AT THAT POOR DEVIL IS WORKED FROM AN INFO-CORE POD INSERTED INTO A COMPUTERISED PROJECTOR ...



BY THE RED MOON! IT CAN'T BE. I'VE HEARD OF THE POSSIBILITY BUT NEVER THOUGHT —

WHAT DID THEY DO TO HIM, HE — HE LOOKED LIKE HE'D BEEN TURNED TO GLASS — OR DRIED CLAY!

ALL LIFE FORMS DEPEND UPON LIQUIDS, CARTER. THAT WEAPON ALTERS THE ATOMIC MAKE-UP OF ANY LIQUID. DO YOU REALISE THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT?

ONLY TOO WELL, TORSEN ...

THAT WEAPON TURNED ON A CITY OR A PLANET WOULD NOT ONLY KILL ANYONE EXPOSED TO IT, BUT ALL PLANTS WOULD FRAGMENT, VEHICLES SEIZE-UP, AND ANYONE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE IN A SHELTER WOULD END UP STARVING AND THIRSTING TO DEATH... ONLY BUILDINGS WOULD REMAIN VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHED.

WITH THIS WEAPON SARTOG COULD CONQUER THE UNIVERSE. WE'RE

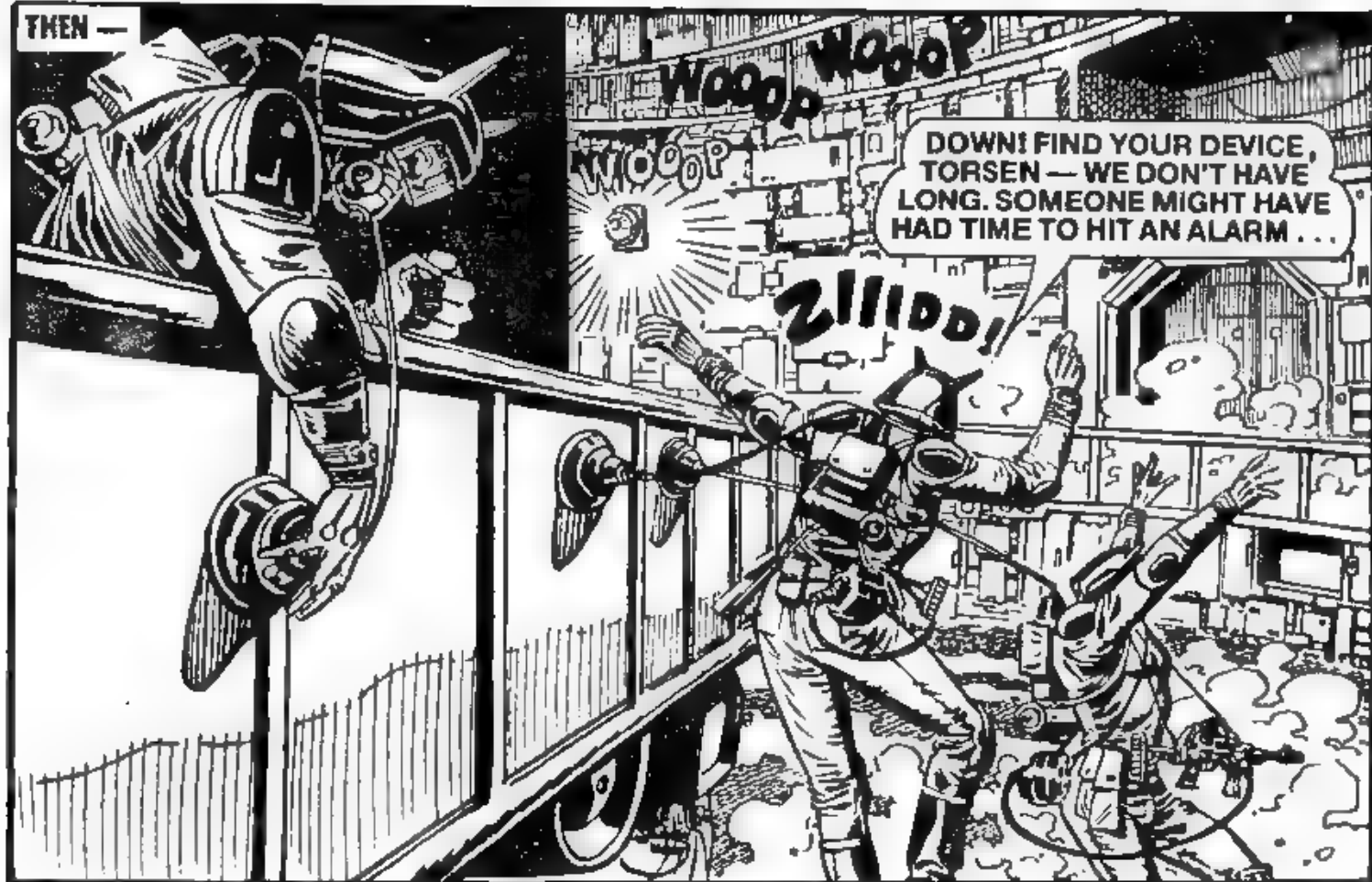
NO! WAIT. WE MUST HAVE THAT DEVICE, CARTER. I CAN'T GO BACK WITHOUT IT. IT'S A BREAKTHROUGH THAT ALL SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR. WITHOUT THAT WE CAN'T WORK ON A COUNTER-WEAPON IF IT WERE EVER USED AGAINST US.

RIGHT! THEN WE HIT THEM! MASK UP AND WE'LL DROP IN USING THE ARACHNID-PACKS.

WITHIN MICRO-PULSES —



THEN —

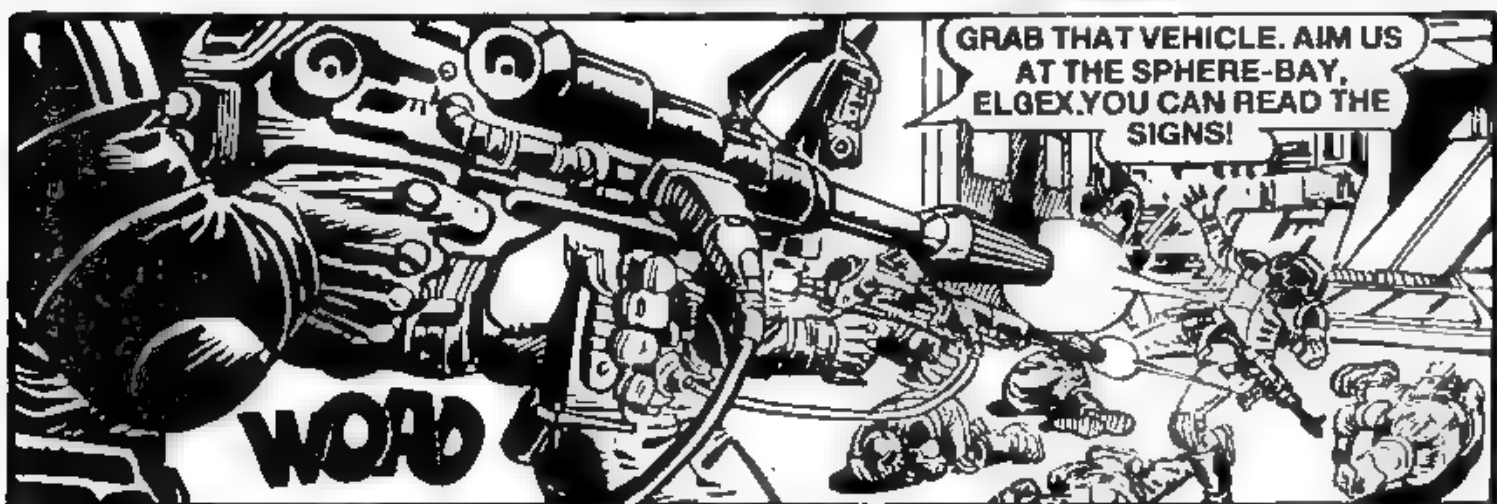


VARLEY! IF THEY TRY
TO SEAL US INTO THIS
CHAMBER, CAN YOU
HANDLE IT?

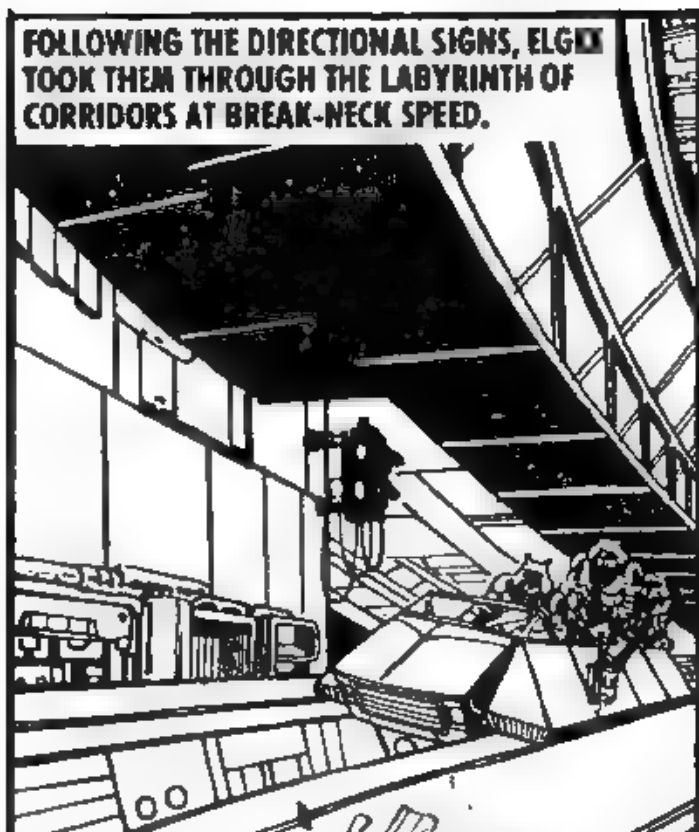
NO PROBLEM!

THAT WILL OPEN THE
DOORS — AND THEY'LL
STAY OPEN!

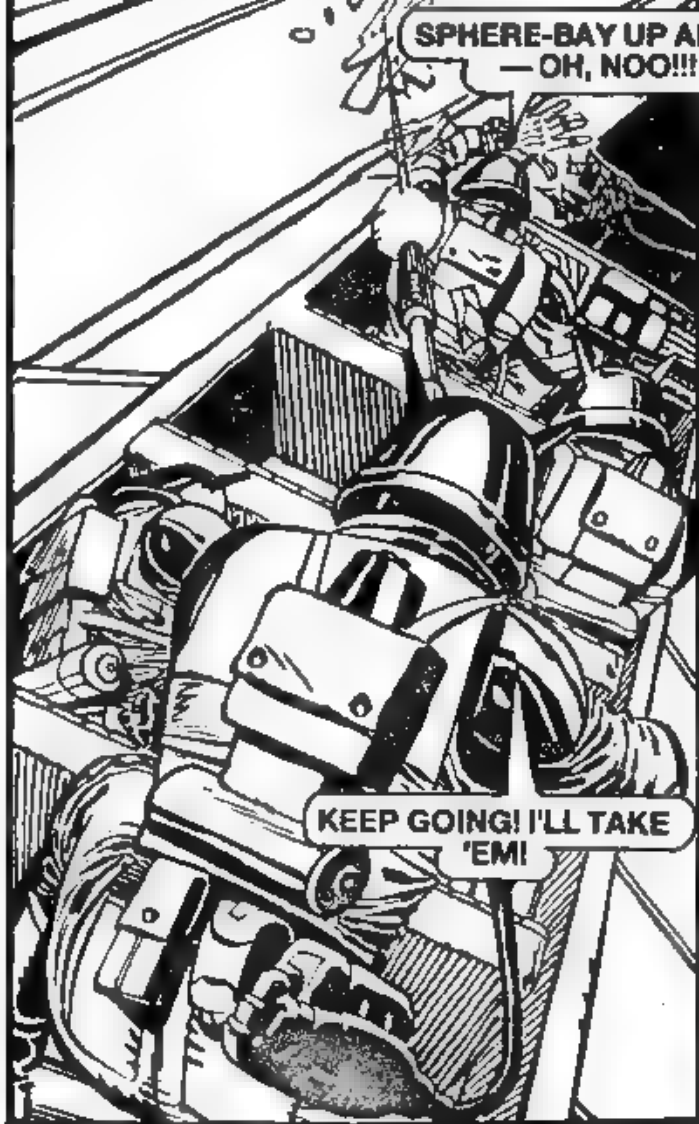




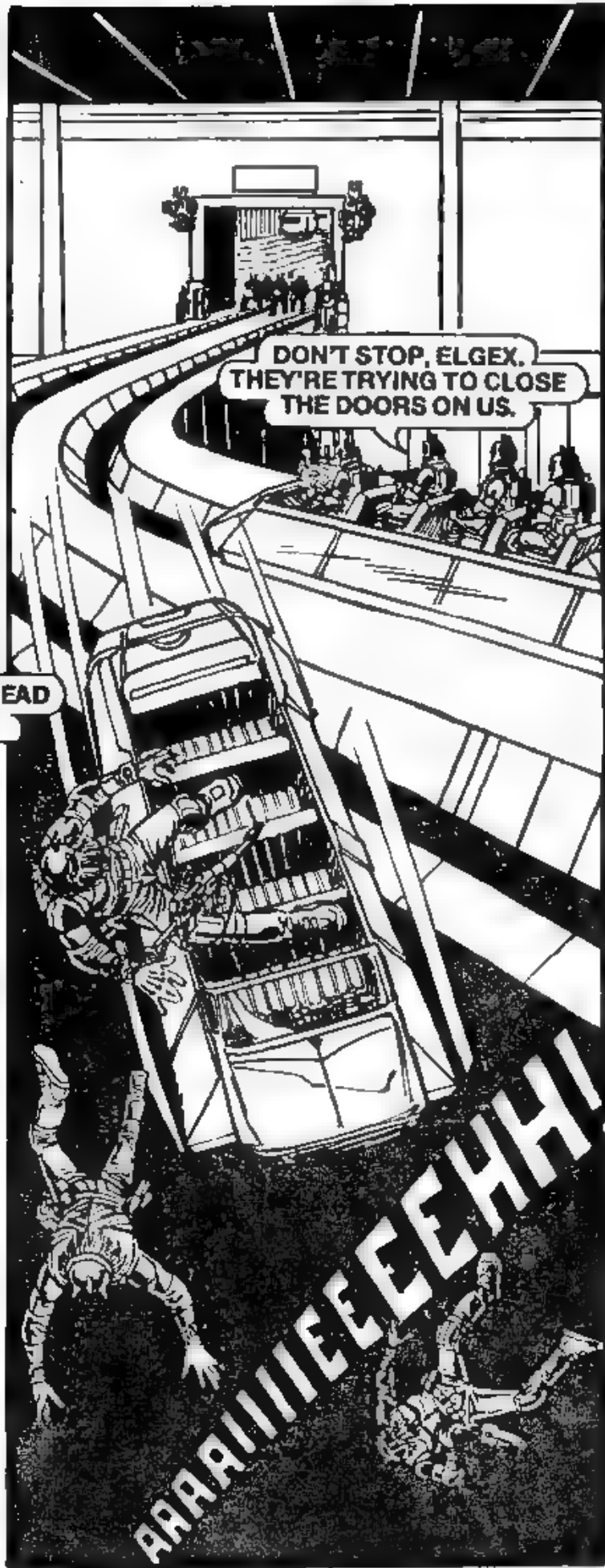
FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS, ELGEX TOOK THEM THROUGH THE LABYRINTH OF CORRIDORS AT BREAK-NECK SPEED.



SPHERE-BAY UP AHEAD
— OH, NOO!!!



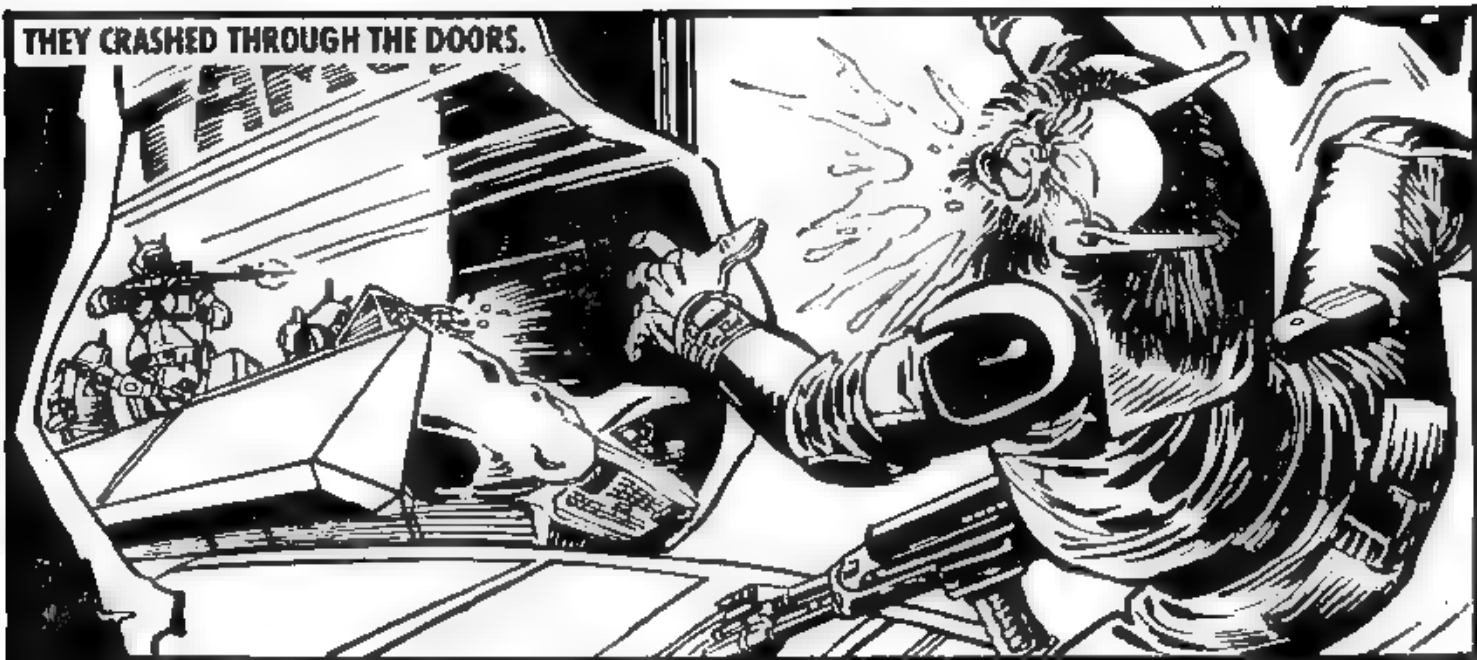
KEEP GOING! I'LL TAKE
'EMI



DON'T STOP, ELGEX.
THEY'RE TRYING TO CLOSE
THE DOORS ON US.

AAAAHHHHH!

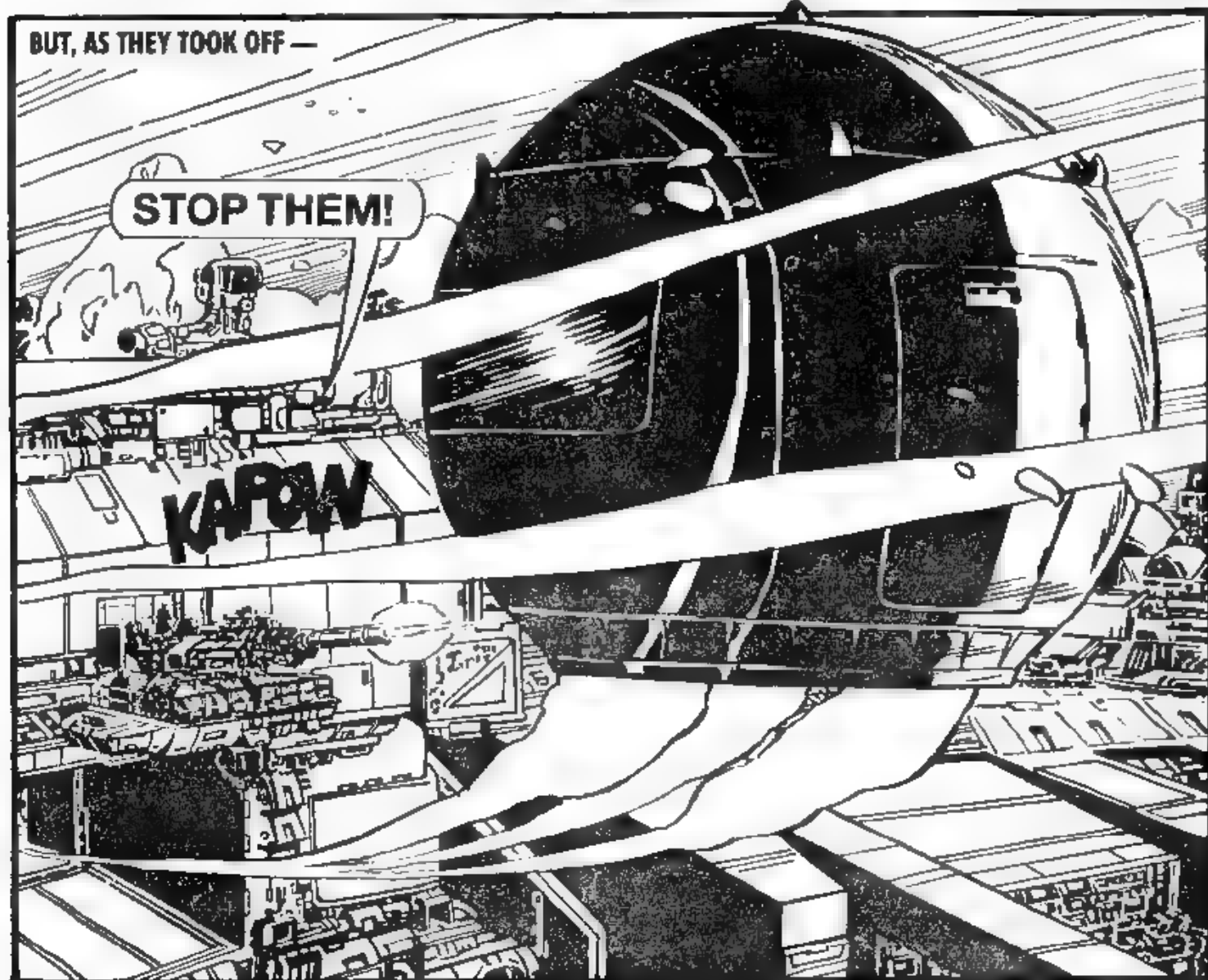
THEY CRASHED THROUGH THE DOORS.



BUT ABOVE THEM —

THEY'VE CRASHED THE SPHERE-
BAY — HIT THEM IF THEY TRY TO
LAUNCH!







CARTER UNLEASHED A BARRAGE OF
LASER FIRE AT THE CANNON.



WE'RE LOSING PRESSURE! WE'LL
NEVER MAKE IT!



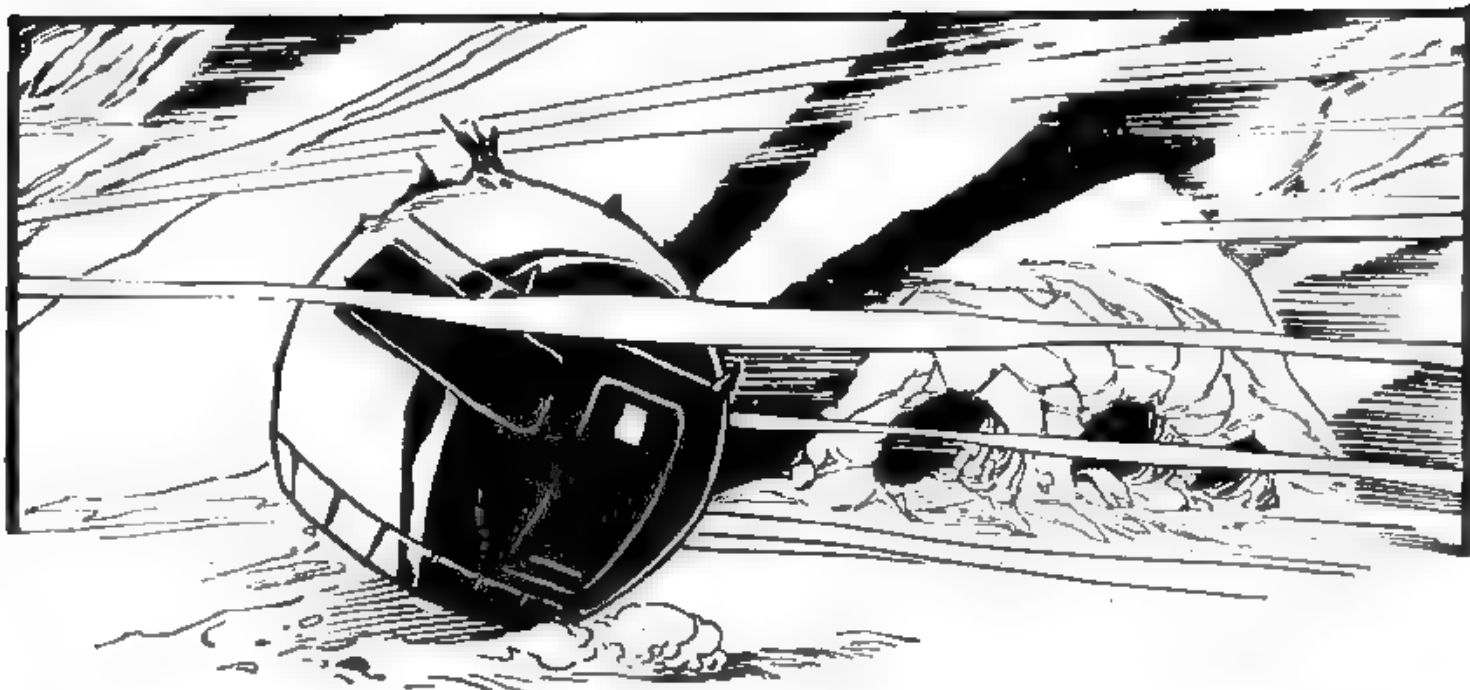
IT'LL TAKE TIME FOR THEM TO
REGROUP. TAKE US AS FAR
AS YOU CAN.

DON'T DIE, ELGEX.
YOU CAN'T.











NO ONE'S GOING TO COME
LOOKING FOR US IN THIS
BLIZZARD. LET'S GRAB SOME
SLEEP WHILE WE CAN. WITH
LUCK IT WILL HAVE BLOWN
ITSELF OUT BY SUN-UP ...

YES ... YES, SOME
SLEEP WILL DO US ALL
GOOD ...

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, VARLEY'S
RIGHT! YOUR BROTHER WAS A
PSYCHO. HE KILLED A WOMAN
AND THREE KIDS IN THAT
HOSTAGE THING. I KNOW, I WAS
THERE.



MUCH LATER —

THIS DEVICE IS A GOLDMINE. JUST ABOUT ANY GOVERNMENT IN THE GALAXY WILL BID FOR IT, AND THE SHUTTLE IS WAITING FOR ME IN THAT CAVERN. I CAN MEET THE PICK-UP SHIP AND LEAVE THE REST OF THEM STRANDED — SAY THEY WERE ALL KILLED. NO ONE NEED EVER KNOW THE TRUTH...

TORSEN, IS VARLEY AWAKE ... GOT TO SPEAK TO HIM!

NO — HE'S ASLEEP — AND SO WILL YOU BE IN A MINUTE.



THE NOISE OF THE WIND HAS COVERED ANY SOUND I MIGHT HAVE MADE FROM CARTER'S ACUTE MANDROID SENSES — ONLY ELGEX'S CRIES WOULD HAVE ROUSED HIM!

BUT, CARTER'S ENGINEERED SIXTH SENSE HAD ALERTED HIM TO SOMETHING. ONLY MICRO-PULSES LATER, HIS EYES SNAPPED OPEN.

VARLEY!
WHERE'S TORSER?

WHA — ? I-I
DON'T KNOW ...

ELGEX! HE — HE'S DEAD!
TORSER MUST HAVE
KILLED HIM!

IT'S THAT DEVICE! THE
TEMPTATION WAS TOO
MUCH FOR HIM. HE'LL BE
HEADING FOR THE
SHUTTLE. MOVE, VARLEY!
HE HAS TO BE STOPPED OR
WE'RE STRANDED —
SITTING-DUCKS FOR THE
SATS!

AT THE SECURITY SECTION —

STORM CONDITION IS EASING!
ALERT ALL AVAILABLE SPHERES!



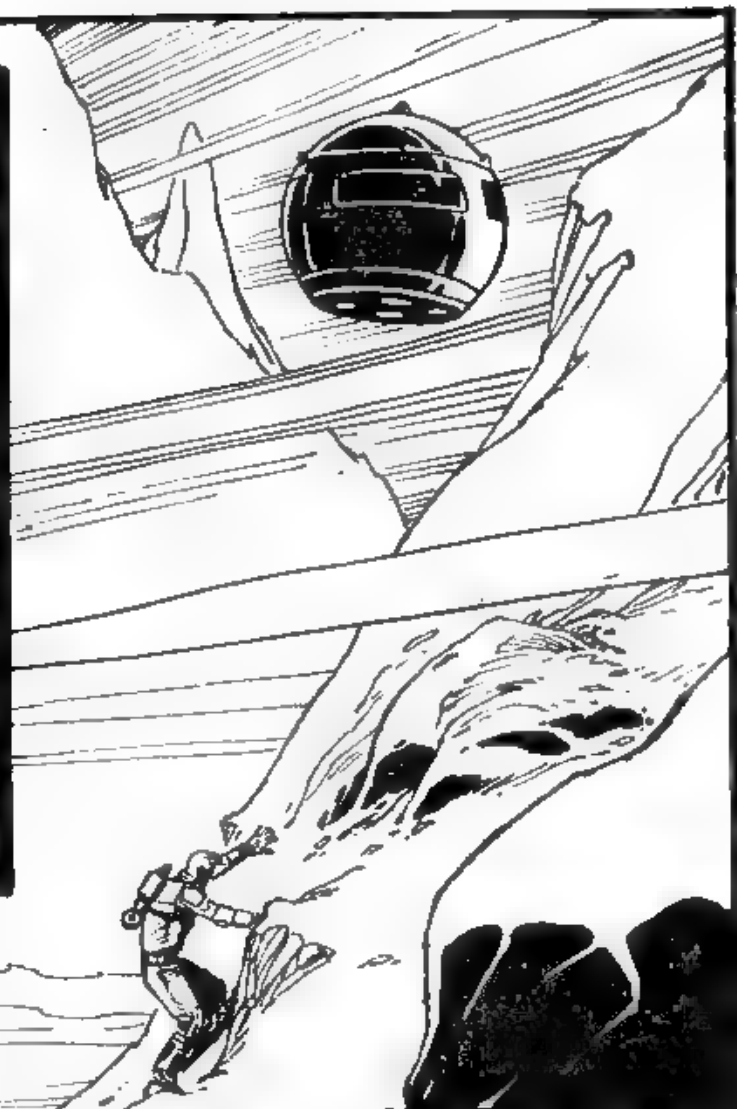
MEANWHILE CARTER AND VARLEY
MADE A SIGHTING.

THERE, CARTER! IT'S HIM! I'LL
KILL HIM — WITH MY BARE
HANDS.



LEAVE HIM
TO ME!

BUT VARLEY WASN'T LISTENING!





CARTER, UNSEEN BY THE SPHERE,
OPENED FIRE AT THE ICE FACE.




JUST AS HE HOPED, THE
ICE FACE COLLAPSED.

RUMBLA O O M B R M

IT IS FINISHED! NO ONE CAN
SURVIVE THAT AVALANCHE.
THEY'LL BE AT THE BOTTOM
OF THAT CHASM FOR
ETERNITY! LET'S GET BACK.




LATER, ON THE SHUTTLE —




A MESSY JOB ... BUT
WHEN DID I EVER GET A
CLEAN ONE?

AFTER THE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE MOTHER-SHIP —



... AND THAT'S THE STORY. OFF
THE RECORD, YOU KNEW THAT
DEVICE WAS BEING MADE AND
USED US TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK.
IF YOU EVER USE ME LIKE THAT
AGAIN, I'LL KILL YOU!
UNDERSTAND?

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE
THREE DEAD, DO YOU?



WOULD IT MATTER? YOU
DEEMED THEM, AND ME,
EXPENDABLE. WE DID OUR
JOB!

ONCE A MANDROID, ALWAYS A
MANDROID. IT ISN'T EASY BEING
ME . . . THE MAN WITH NO HEART.
AHEM . . . I REALLY MUST GET THE
LUBRICATION DUCT IN MY EYE
SEEN TO.



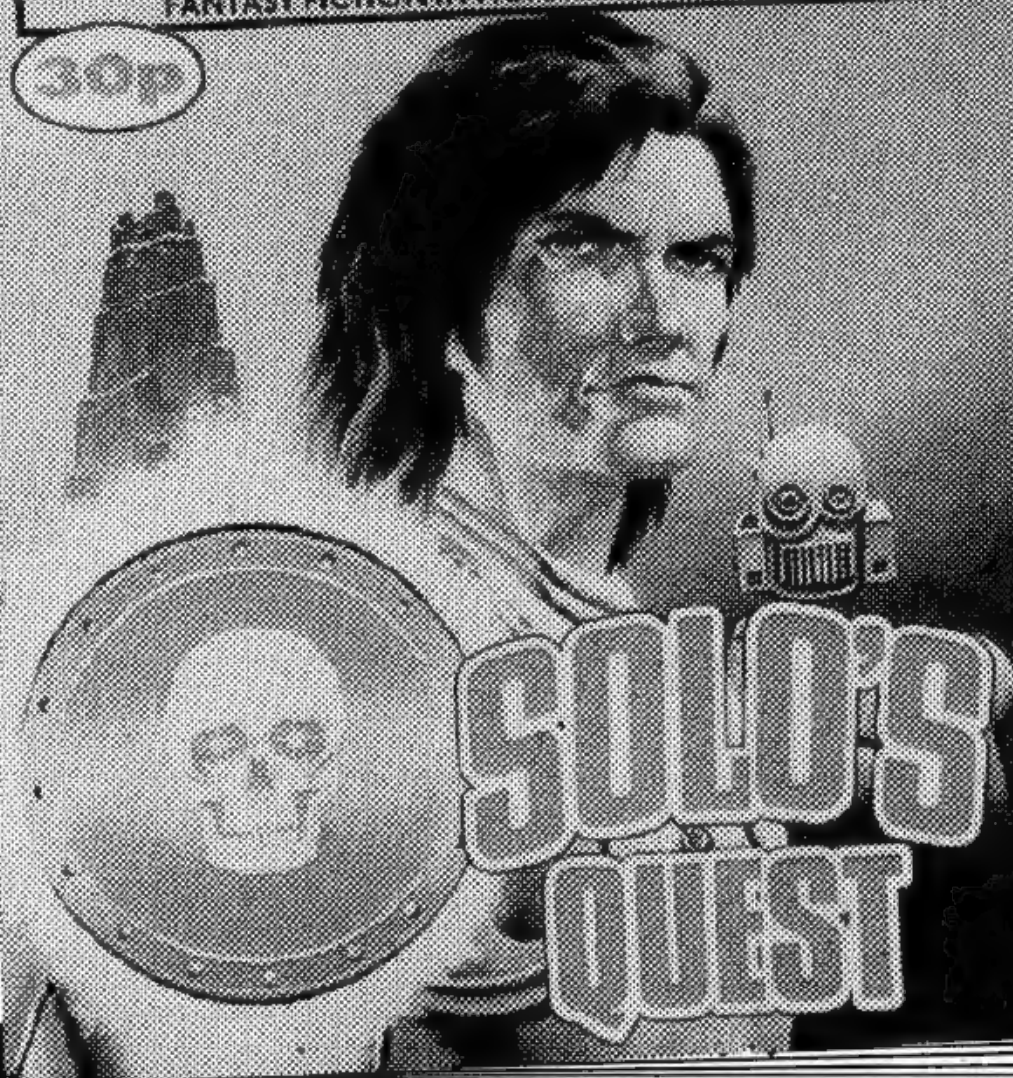
**DON'T
MISS**

**THIS MONTH'S OTHER
ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE**

STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 229

30p



**SOLO'S
QUEST**

NOW ON SALE

THE SECRET OF ICE MOUNTAIN

... A CARTER STORY ...

Carter just didn't care what people thought of him. People didn't like policemen anyway, and cops who weren't completely human were treated with contempt. And it was contempt that drove Carter on . . . complete contempt for the law-breaker. Ruthlessly this half man, half android crimebuster, scoured the galaxy for lawbreakers. But the time came, when he had to work with Crimos, suppress his contempt for them, or see Earth destroyed in one fell swoop.

